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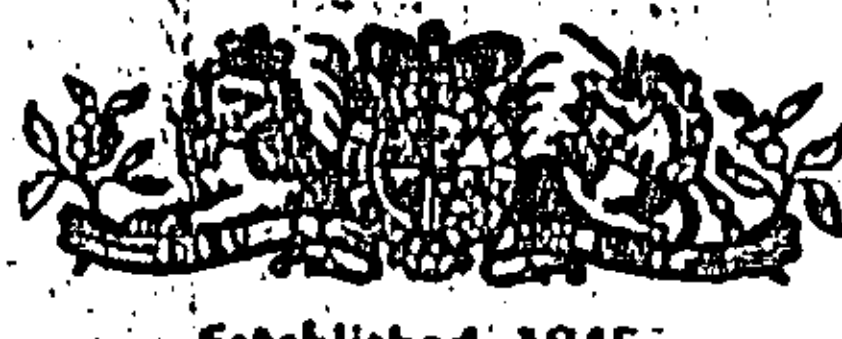
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COMMENT OF THE DAY

The City Hall

FROM the moment Government made it known that future development projects included the construction of a new City Hall, emphasis was placed on the desirability of encouraging the public to give voice to its views. Government promised it would make no commitments until it knew how the community felt about the project. In fact, however, no real public opinion has manifested itself. Even the City Hall Advisory Committee, which went about its job with earnest determination in the early days, could only muster an attendance of 14 out of 54 members when the opportunity arose for the committee to debate the question of the most suitable method for obtaining the best design and construction. Thus on one of the fundamental and most controversial aspects of the scheme public opinion, as represented by the advisory committee, remained virtually inarticulate. Government, therefore, was entitled to bring the issue to a head as it did yesterday by introducing a motion in Legislative Council. Time, while not precious in this case, must not be unduly wasted. Decisions must be made or the Colony will never possess its city hall. And, insofar as the Unofficial Members are intended to represent the community, their almost unanimous vote yesterday in favour of the Government motion probably reflects majority public opinion.

It is doubtful whether public interest in yesterday's measured debate on how Government should obtain the most suitable design is anything more than casual or academic. The subject is probably a little over the head of the average person. Assuredly there is a general desire for the city hall to be worthy of its surroundings, but how that is to be achieved the public prefer to leave to the experts. Hence there will be no violent disagreement with Legislative Council's decision to place the work in the combined hands of the PWD and Professor Gordon Brown. Criticism will only be forthcoming if the final manifestation falls short of expectation. The Director of Public Works has given an assurance that the public will have opportunities for seeing sketch designs and offering suggestions, before any final decision is made, and presumably the advisory committee will be kept in the picture. They can and should be the best interpreters of popular reactions inasmuch that at full strength they represent all sections of the community. The committee will be expected to direct a critical eye, not only so far as the city hall will appear exteriorly, but how the design meets all practical requirements as a civic centre.

Royalty At Funeral



Kings and heads of States seen as they walked up Whitehall during the funeral of King George VI last Friday. In the picture are (front row left to right) the King of Sweden, the King of Greece, the King of Norway and President Aulof of France. Behind, the President of Yugoslavia (top hats), and behind them the Crown Prince of Ethiopia, Crown Prince of Norway and Crown Prince of Jordan. In the next row are Prince Ali Reza of Persia, Prince Bernadotte of Sweden, Prince of Luxembourg and the Prince of Liege. — Central Press picture.

Rearmament Programme Falls Short

London, Feb. 20. The Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill, revealed to night that Britain's rearment programme fell short of its goal this year by almost 10 per cent of the scheduled amount. He told the House of Commons on the eve of a defence White Paper scheduled for tomorrow, that the original programme scheduled for three years would certainly take more time than that.

He promised a full defence debate.

Mr Churchill ran into a flurry of questions on how far the rearment programme was behind and how long it would now take.

"I cannot give the exact figure but the present indications are that expenditure will fall short by about £120,000,000 of the £350,000,000 which it was hoped it might be possible to spend in the current financial year," Mr Churchill told Labour Member, George Chetwynd.

Mr Chetwynd had asked if this meant that the programme would take four or five years—United Press.

Theatre Roof Collapses

Cincinnati, Feb. 20. More than 50 persons were hurt on Wednesday night as a large portion of the ceiling of the Roosevelt Theatre collapsed and fell into the audience.

The theatre is in the heart of Cincinnati's negro district. Many of those hurt suffered only minor injuries but several were believed to be in a serious condition.

Fire Marshal Harry McNeely said there apparently was a "near panic" when the ceiling began to fall. One witness said patrons "poured out of the theatre like crazy." Associated Press.

Mystery Death Of GI And German Woman

Frankfurt, Feb. 20. US Army and German detectives searched hotels and rooming houses tonight for a clue to pierce the mystery surrounding the deaths of an American soldier and a 23-year-old German girl whose nude bodies were found side by side in a snow-covered wood near here.

An autopsy revealed that the soldier had died of carbon monoxide poisoning. He was identified by Army authorities as Corporal George Daniels, 24, of the 4th Infantry Division which has its headquarters here. The girl was a shapely blonde, Dietlind Siebel.

Investigators found a pile of torn love letters from soldier admirers, indicating she was a favourite of US soldiers. It was assumed she died of carbon monoxide poisoning. The Army authorities said Daniels had been absent without leave from his unit since February 19. United Press.

Commitments To Britain

Denied By Truman

REPORT SOUGHT BY CONGRESS

Washington, Feb. 20. President Truman said today that he had not made any commitments to Britain to send troops anywhere in the world. The White House announced that President Truman had authorised the statement to be made.

It was in the nature of a belated reply to a question asked him at his news conference earlier in the day.

At this conference President Truman had refused to say whether he had made any commitment with Britain's Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill, to send American troops "anywhere in the world."

He refused all the efforts of journalists at the conference to get him to comment on the action of the House of Representatives earlier in the day in resolving to direct the Secretary of State, Mr Dean Acheson, to give full information on any agreement between President Truman and Mr Churchill which might require the dispatch overseas of American Service men or involve the United States in a war on foreign soil.

President Truman said that he would have to see the resolution—passed only an hour earlier—before commenting on it.

Asked if apart from the action of the House he would say whether any commitment had been made to Britain during the talks with Mr Churchill about sending American troops anywhere, the President replied quickly, "No comment."

REPORT DEMANDED

The House of Representatives today refused to accept Administration assurances that no secret commitments were made in the recent Truman-Churchill talks.

The House, called for a full report on any conference agreements.

The resolution is not binding on the Administration.

The House voted approval of this resolution contrary to the recommendation of its Foreign Affairs Committee which had reported to the House the State Department's assurances that no secret commitments had been made.

Opposing the resolution, Democrat James Richards, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said that it was an attempt to force President Truman and Mr Acheson to reveal information which might be useful to Russia.

Republican John Vorys said that the American people were entitled to know if any commitments were made with foreign nations which could involve the United States in war.

They questioned whether an understanding had been reached in the Truman-Churchill meeting through which American troops could be committed to the Suez Canal Zone to support Britain there.

Mr Vorys said that Mr Churchill had suggested that America should commit troops to Suez and on leaving America he had said that he had "something definite" to take home to his people. Was this an agreement to send American troops to Suez? he asked.

The Committee's Chairman said that no such agreement had been made. —Reuter.

BUS STRIKERS ATTACK POLICE

Tehran, Feb. 20. Striking bus drivers attacked Tehran police with automobile cranks in front of the home of Premier Mohammed Mossadegh on Wednesday. A number of policemen were injured.

The police warned the drivers to disperse by Thursday or their licences would be revoked. —Associated Press.

Egypt Wants Collective Security Pact

Cairo, Feb. 20.

The Egyptian Prime Minister, Aly Maher Pasha, said on Wednesday night that Egypt must enter into "speedy negotiations" with Britain, and that he favoured a collective security pact with the Western Powers.

The Prime Minister said he was anxious to secure the evacuation of British forces and the unity of the Nile Valley under the Egyptian Crown.

"This can only be achieved through speedy negotiations," he said.

Maher Pasha was speaking after receiving a delegation of students, claiming to represent 20,000 University students of all shades of political opinion. The students had appealed for abolition of martial law and called for all "leaders of the Nile Valley" to end their ranks and sink party differences.

The Prime Minister said he considered the recent "whispering campaign" necessitated maintenance of martial law. He had intended to reduce the two-month period for which martial law was proclaimed, "but at any rate I am not extending it," he said.

NEW OFFENCE

Under a military proclamation published on Wednesday night, anyone found guilty of spreading false rumours or making publicly calculated "to disturb public security or harm the general interest of the country" may be punished by imprisonment ranging from six months to five years and a fine of from 50 to 500 Egyptian pounds (approximately at par with sterling).

The Premier also said it must be borne in mind that calm and tranquillity must prevail in the country when talks were resumed with Britain.

He said he had set up a system of military training for university undergraduates and that not more than five years' imprisonment with a fine ranging from 50 to 500 Egyptian pounds. —Reuter.

Another military proclamation issued on Wednesday night banned civilians from wearing uniforms of the armed forces, an offence punishable in future by not less than six months' imprisonment with a fine ranging from 50 to 500 Egyptian pounds. —Reuter.

RESTS ON PREMIER

Initiative for Anglo-Egyptian negotiations here between British Ambassador Sir Ralph Stevenson and Egyptian Prime Minister Aly Maher Pasha will be taken by the latter after talks with Amr Pasha, Egyptian Ambassador in London, a British Embassy spokesman said here today.

Amr Pasha, who is expected to arrive here tomorrow after talks with British Secretary of State Anthony Eden, will inform the Egyptian Prime Minister on the result of the conversation.

Invested with powers of military governor, Egyptian Prime Minister Aly Maher Pasha today relaxed curfew hours from 10 to 11 o'clock at night and from 6 to 6 o'clock in the morning. —France-Press.

Red Rebels Routed

Rangoon, Feb. 20. Burmese Government forces killed 24 Communists in a gun battle near Taunggyi, capital of the Southern Shan States, an Army communiqué said today.

In another engagement they killed 15 rebels at Okkan, 40 miles north of Rangoon. —Reuter.

Cat's 44 Days On A Wrecked Ship

Land's End, Feb. 20.

Carlson, a black cat named after Captain Kurt "Stay Put" Carlson of the Flying Enterprise because of its feats of endurance, was brought ashore here today from a ship wrecked by fire.

This Carlson refused to leave the 5,250-ton Liberian ship, Liberty, when it was wrecked off this South-west tip of England on January 7.

He ignored the efforts of kindly residents to lure him ashore.

For 44 grim days and nights, Carlson had paced the deserted deck. Only a fire which broke out yesterday on the wreck forced him to abandon ship.

With a loud "meow" he jumped into the arms of firemen who came to save 450 tons of coal still in the bunkers.

A fireman, C. Morris, who carried him ashore once the fire was subdued, said that the cat was going to live with him. —Reuter.

TAXPAYERS BENEFITTED

London, Feb. 20.

A Labour Member, Mr George Higg, caused a minor storm in the House of Commons today by asking about the "free travel" given to the Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill, on his recent visit to the United States and Canada.

Mr Churchill replied that the two Atlantic passages given him and the Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Eden, on the liner Queen Mary by the Cunard Company would have cost normally £1,752. Similar facilities were provided by the United States and Canadian railways.

"The gifts and services were not to the Ministers but to the British taxpayers," the Prime Minister added amidst cheers. Mr Churchill said that if there was a strong sentiment that the money should be refunded to the taxpayer by the Exchequer, he would be willing to consider it. The Opposition did not take the matter any further. —Reuter.

CALM IN TUNIS

Tunis, Feb. 20. The only nationalist agitation was two telegraph poles sawn down near Sfax. —Reuter.

Woman Said To Be Poisoner

Pollers, Feb. 20.

Marie Benard, 50-year-old widow, who was alleged to have poisoned 11 people, was charged here today with illegally cashing a 9,750-franc postal order addressed to her aunt.

She was found guilty of forgery and using a forgery to obtain money. She was given a suspended sentence of two years' gaol and fined 12,000 francs.

Hearing of the poisoning charges starts tomorrow. —Reuter.

All A Question Of Identity

Bonn, Feb. 20.

The Police were this evening questioning a German rightist Deputy to find out if he really is Franz Richter and which name he has been elected to Parliament or a senior Nazi official called Fritz Roessler.

Dr Franz Druegh, Bonn chief prosecutor today arrested the Deputy, who belongs to the neo-Nazi Socialist Reich Party, claiming that he is, in fact, Roessler, former Chief of Staff of the Nazi Gauleiter of Saxony, Martin Mutschmann.

Dr Druegh was waiting in the Bundestag lobby, where Deputies sign their name on the roll to qualify for the 30 marks a day tax-free allowance, when Richter-Roessler came up.

Two charges against the dark-skinned Richter-Roessler were: living under a false identity, perjury, and unlawfully holding office.

ARREST APPROVED

The right-wing Deputy was today arrested on the false pretences charge after he had signed his name on the roll.

He refused to go quietly and the Police pushed him out of the lobby windows into a waiting car.

A few minutes later Parliament unanimously approved his arrest and bringing of charges of living under an assumed name, perjury and unlawful assumption of office. These charges have not yet been framed.

Under German law Parliamentary immunity does not cover members caught actually committing an offence.

Richter, who is fond of striding around in riding boots and breeches, helped to found the Nationalist Reich Party in January, 1950, after a fusion of the German Right Party of Lower Saxony with the National Democratic Party of Hesse.

He has been classified under de-Nazification laws as free of any Nazi taint. —Reuter.

13 Men Still On Disabled Tanker

Chatham, Mass., Feb. 20.

A powerful seagoing tug today reached the battered stern section of the tanker, Fort Mercer, which is adrift 60 miles off the Nantucket coast with 13 men aboard.

Another tug, the Foundation Josephine, left the overturned bow section about 40 miles away after salvage experts had said it was impractical to save it. She will help to tow the rear section.

Despite new gales threatening, the tugs will try to bring the stern of the 10,000-ton tanker to "the nearest safe port."

The Moran Tug Company reported later today that one of its ocean-going tugs had got a line aboard the stern section of the Fort Mercer. The tug Peter Moran sent medical supplies to the battered hull for two of the crew who were reported ill, one with pneumonia.

The Foundation Josephine, which put the line aboard in a freshening 26 miles an hour wind, was going to pull the stern section to Block Island. The tug Peter Moran was expected to help.

The 13 men who have clung for two days to the severed stern of the Fort Mercer said that the Atlantic storm drove back the salvage tug which tried to reach them today.

The Coast Guard cutter East Wind was still standing by the stern, which wallowed dangerously in big waves but was reported still in "fairly good condition."

STRONG GALES

The captain of the tug, Peter Moran, reported such strong gales that he dared not turn around.

Meanwhile, in Boston a Board of Enquiry heard evidence from survivors about the splitting of another tanker, the Pendleton, in the same gale.

A few moments later the ship broke in two so quickly that the radio operator could not send a distress signal. As the rear section drifted ashore he "kicked the engine" once or twice to keep her off the beach but let her go when the forward bulkheads showed strain. They were on to a sandbar and soon afterwards a Coast Guard lifeboat came alongside and picked them up, he said.

This is what happened to the crews of the two ships.

Six died in rescue attempts, eight are missing and presumed dead. They were last reported on the bow of the Pendleton, but no trace of them was found.

Coast Guards rescued 57. Thirteen remain on the stern of the Fort Mercer. —Reuter.

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Hitch In Film Stars' Wedding

London, Feb. 20. Elizabeth Taylor said tonight that in her excitement she had left her documents behind in Hollywood. Her forgetfulness threatened to postpone the film star's marriage to the British actor, Michael Wilding, until Friday.

Miss Taylor, 10, and her 39-year-old fiancee announced earlier that they would be married on Thursday morning in a civil ceremony. But Michael Wilding said tonight that the wedding might have to be postponed unless the documents arrived in time. — United Press.

American Diplomats Afraid Of Reprisals?

Chicago, Feb. 20. Delegates from 90 national organizations say that United States diplomats are hampered at world councils by the fear of reprisal.

Delegates to the "conference on United States responsibility for world affairs in 1952" passed a resolution yesterday that the "rigidly born of fear of reprisal is tending to paralyze our delegate... in world councils, making cancellation and agreement most difficult to achieve."

The conference, sponsored by the American Association for the United Nations, called for an amendment of the International Security Act because the "security of a country can be more imperilled than assured if measures directed against an alleged conspiracy — take on the attributes of a police State."

The conference suggested that the United Nations take over jurisdiction of the Suez Canal. The delegates voted that "all strategic bases controlled by a country outside its home territory be placed under United Nations control," but conceded that this is not practical.

In another resolution the group urged that the United States "consider sincerely and with great care" Soviet concessions on disarmament. — United Press.

Claim Against Mme. Koo

Washington, Feb. 20. The Federal Government has filed a \$1,250 tax lien against Madame Hui-Jah Koo, wife of the Chinese Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Wellington Koo.

According to the lien, filed in the District Court here, Madame Koo owes \$484.38 on her 1948 income tax, \$235.92 for 1949, and \$538.84 for 1950, including penalties and interest.

A secretary at the Ambassador's residence said Madame Koo is away from Washington and that the income tax returns had been prepared by accountants. — Associated Press.

Higher Earnings For Transport

London, Feb. 20. British Transport's total traffic receipts jumped from £540,561,000 in 1950 to £600,479,000 last year. This rise was due partly to increased fares, and partly to an increase in traffic.

British Railways accounted for £266,235,000 of the total, against £235,827,000 in 1950. London Transport receipts were £59,321,000 against £55,021,000.

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— TO-MORROW —
"MA & PA KETTLE"

Call For A Realistic Scheme Of Controlled Disarmament

Lisbon, Feb. 20.

The Norwegian Foreign Minister, Dr Halvard Lange, said today that the Atlantic Pact nations, as soon as they could build up an indispensable minimum of defence forces, would be ready to participate in a realistic programme of controlled disarmament under the auspices of the United Nations.

Dr Lange, addressing the NATO Council session here, was sure that the goal of building up a common security against any threat of aggression was in sight.

The common defence plans they were about to approve would lay heavy burdens upon the peoples of the 14 countries.

They were determined to build the minimum of defence forces but equally determined to do all in their power to bring about a less tense international situation.

Dr Lange believed that they all intended to turn "what we call the Atlantic community into a living and lasting reality."

The Greek Foreign Minister, M. Sophocles Venizelos, told the Council that by joining the Atlantic Pact, Greece and Turkey had strengthened the prospects for peace far more than they would have done by entering a separate regional alliance.

In an obvious reference to earlier proposals that the two countries should have devoted their resources to the proposed Middle East Command, M. Venizelos declared:

"When the question was raised of the participation of Greece and Turkey in a regional system of legitimate defence, the question of deciding whether it would be better for our two countries to accede to the North Atlantic Treaty or to be brought into some more limited organisation linked up with this Treaty was discussed at considerable length."

"I feel that the first of these solutions, that is to say, the one which was finally adopted, offers a far greater chance of preserving peace."

"The co-existence of two separate organisations, however closely linked, would have meant an inevitable weakening of the purpose towards which we are striving."

"It would have enabled any possible aggressor to have assumed that there was a lack of whole-hearted co-operation among us and thus to have been encouraged in his plans of aggression."

M. Venizelos said that Greece appreciated the security offered by the Atlantic Pact but she had no thought of giving it a one-way interpretation.

"Greece fully realises the extent of the responsibilities she is called upon to assume here and she will meet it with the same determination with which friendly nations whose valuable support she is not likely to forget, she met the impact of Communist aggression," he said. — Reuter.

NOT ONE-WAY VIETMINH ARTERY BOMBED

Saigon, Feb. 20. The main supply line for arms and equipment arriving from Communist China to the rebel Vietminh forces was bombed by Vietnamese aircraft last night, French Headquarters announced today.

Colonial Highway No. 3, running from Hanoi to the Chinese frontier, is one of the vital supply lines for the Communist rebel forces, and a number of vehicles of Russian origin and American trucks captured in Korea travel daily down the road to supply and reinforce Vietminh troops stationed in the Red River delta.

No details were given. French troops are continuing clean-up operations along Colonial Highway No. 6, where heavy fighting took place several weeks ago for the much-disputed fortress town of Hoa Binh on the Black River.

A communiqué said Franco-Vietnamese reconnaissance units encountered little resistance. — United Press.

Harbour Works

Washington, Feb. 20. The Mutual Security Agency has authorised \$1,000,000 to spend \$1,000,000 for a suction dredge and pipe line for harbour and river development in Cambodia.

Other authorisations for Eastern countries today included \$177,000 for Indo-China for textiles, radio equipment and technical aid, \$82,000 for Thailand, \$32,000 for Burma, \$10,000 for Nationalist China and \$1,000 for the Philippines. — United Press.

Cypriot Claim Reaffirmed

Nicosia, Feb. 20. The Independent Cyprus paper Eleftheria demanded today that the island's claim for union with Greece should come before any steps to turn Cyprus into the Middle East defence centre.

The newspaper was commenting on reports that an American Air Force base is to be established at Tymbou airfield, and that the Middle East Planning Board will be based in Cyprus.

The editorial said that Cyprus respects Western defence needs yet "more urgent is the rightful aim of a civilised people peacefully claiming its national restoration." — Reuter.

Bonn, Feb. 20. The German Economics Ministry announced today that a German-Turkish trade agreement had been signed at Ankara. The agreement, covering the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1953, called for trade of about \$250,000 each way. — Reuter.

Guarantee Of Capital Investment AMERICAN-P.I. AGREEMENT

Manila, Feb. 20.

The Manila office of the Mutual Security Agency (formerly the ECA) announced today that an agreement has been signed in Washington whereby American capital investment in the Philippines would be protected by the American Government.

This marks the first extension of the United States guarantee programme outside Europe and its dependencies where it was initiated under the Marshall Plan, a MSA mission spokesman said.

The programme covers both industrial investments abroad and sales abroad of American information media such as books and magazines.

The spokesman said that the guarantee programme provides two types of insurance — one guaranteeing the investor that his foreign currency receipts can be converted into dollars and the other against expropriation and confiscation.

The spokesman said, however, that the first part of the guarantee programme would not eliminate the 17 per cent foreign exchange tax now in force in the Philippines.

Under this tax, for every dollar taken out of the Philippines 17 cents must be paid to the Government.

The exchange control law under which the Central Bank has absolute authority on granting of licences to buy dollars and take them out of the country will continue to be in force.

The new agreement was made through an exchange of notes signed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, Mr. John M. Allison, and Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo. — United Press.

Prisoner Attacked In Cell

London, Feb. 21. For the second time in three days a prisoner has been attacked by other inmates in Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight.

Stanley Seal, 41, doing six years preventive detention passed on him in 1949 for house-breaking and larceny, was found with throat wounds apparently inflicted with a knife or razor. The attack is believed to have been made at lunch-time.

Detective-Inspector J. White, of Newport, was called in. He had just completed his report on an attack on Richard Nevill d'Arcy, 47, an eight-year man found in his cell with his throat slashed with a razor. Seal's injuries are not serious.

There has been growing unrest in Parkhurst for some weeks. This culminated in an attempt to set fire to the chapel harmonium some weeks ago. The Home Office recently decided to move out ordinary prisoners and restrict Parkhurst to men serving sentences of preventive detention.

It is likely that sterner disciplinary measures will be adopted.

PEKING RADIO BLAST AT U.S.

San Francisco, Feb. 20. Peking radio today charged that the number of "provocations" by U.S. planes over Manchuria "is growing in seriousness."

The Red broadcast, heard by the Associated Press, claimed that American planes made 248 such flights in 51 different formations in 40 days up to Feb. 6.

The broadcast asserted that the planes "bombed and strafed peaceful civilians in a most barbarous way" but did not say when or where. — Associated Press.

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RESCUED SAILORS' STORY

Ship's Bow Wrenched Off In Storm

Boston, Feb. 20. Members of the crew who have been rescued from the broken tanker Fort Mercer, battered by storm winds off Cape Cod, have given vivid details of what happened aboard the ship.

Describing how the ship broke up in the storm, Seaman Luis Gilces said, "It felt something like a crash. We thought we had been rammed."

He was at breakfast in the mess on Monday with about 12 other crewmen who had just come off watch.

"At nine o'clock we were alerted. It was an emergency and we went topside with our belts on and took the covers off the lifeboats," Gilces continued.

"The ship kept shuddering in heavy seas until noon, when the bow turned suddenly to starboard and wrenched off. The ship buckled as the bow came off and the front bulkhead plunged into the waves."

RESCUERS PRAISED

All the crewmen praised the rescue performed by the Acusnet and its crew.

"I never want to be shipwrecked again, but if I am I hope that the Acusnet is around. They did a great job," said Joseph Fluk, Third Assistant Engineer.

He added, "It was too rough to consider putting boats over the side. What really worried us was that it was going to blow up again last night. I am sure glad to get on the Acusnet. They asked us who wanted to stay aboard (the Mercer) and who didn't," with reference to the 13 still at sea on the stern of the Mercer.—United Press.

URANIUM IN TASMANIA?

Canberra, Feb. 20.

The Australian Government is investigating reports that there are unexplored uranium resources in southwest Tasmania.

Experts from the Australian Supply Department are expected to use Geiger-counters to check the reports.

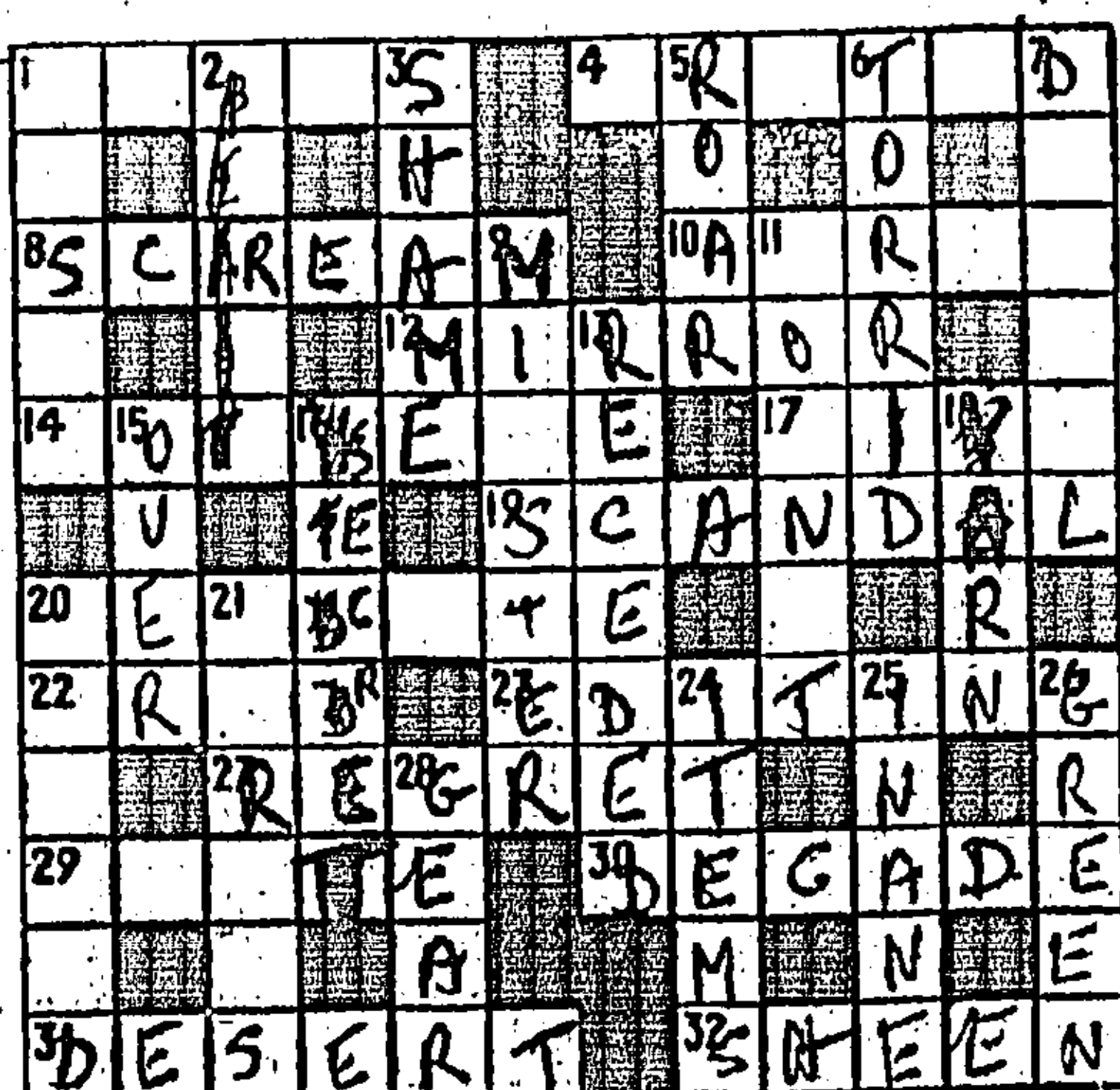
"They will probably operate from Lake Tadder, which is the only accessible area in the centre of the mountains close to the place where uranium was recently discovered.—France-Press.

New Russian Claim

London, Feb. 20.

A Russian biologist discovered the principle of evolution "long before the appearance of Darwin's Origin of Species," according to Moscow Radio, heard here.—Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Collisions (5).
- 2 Rashed (5).
- 3 Shrick (6).
- 4 Land measures (5).
- 5 Looking-glass (6).
- 6 Sunburn (7).
- 7 Annoy (4).
- 8 Malicious gossip (7).
- 9 Turn aside (7).
- 10 Viva-voce (4).
- 11 Preparing for publication (7).
- 12 Rue (6).
- 13 Direct (6).
- 14 Period (6).
- 15 Wilderness (6).
- 16 Harsh (6).

DOWN

- 1 Fundamental (5).
- 2 Imbecile (5).
- 3 Disgrace (5).
- 4 Bellow (4).
- 5 Very hot (6).
- 6 Squalor (6).
- 7 Church (7).
- 8 Musical instrument (6).
- 9 Withdrew (7).
- 10 Above (4).
- 11 Concealed (6).
- 12 Material (4).
- 13 Determined (6).
- 14 Changes (6).
- 15 Death (6).
- 16 Foolish (6).
- 17 Inexperienced (6).
- 18 Equipment (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: — 3 Corporal, 8 Hoof, 9 Repeated, 11 Combined, 13 Idle, 15 Rifleman, 19 Solacing, 20 Lament, 21 Verminous, 23 Travels, 25 Bleeding, Down: 1 Chic, 2 Doorn, 4 Omen, 5 Rises, 10 Teller, 12 China, 14 Lined, 16 Modes, 17 Nasty, 19 Entry, 20 Whisky, 21 Vandy, 22 Stun, 23 Echo, 24 Tiny.

CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY



The Pakistan High Commissioner, Mr. Rahnitool (left) with the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Menon, at a reception given by the latter in London to celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of India.—Express Service.

AMBITIOUS PLANNING IN CAIRO

Cairo, Feb. 20.

Egypt is planning to buy £100,000,000 worth of goods from Russia, Abdullah Abuza Bey, Under-Secretary for Commerce and Industry, said today, according to the newspaper Al Aman.

Abuza said that his Ministry has listed all possible Russian imports to meet Egyptian local needs.

He added that the data compiled have been sent to the Foreign Ministry in order to proceed with negotiations for the conclusion of a Russo-Egyptian trade agreement.

Abuza said that there is no obstacle to the conclusion of such an agreement in order to extend Egyptian-Russian commercial relations.

These relations, he added, should not be limited to grain imports and cotton exports.—United Press.

Disclosure By Scientist

New York, Feb. 20.

A Canadian scientist, Lincoln Thiesmeyer, said here today that the paper industry is on the verge of being revolutionized by the application of atomic energy and of new inventions.

Mr. Thiesmeyer is President of the Canadian Institute of Paper Research.—France-Press.

ATTACK ON

Adenauer Thinks Saar Problem Can Be Solved

Bonn, Feb. 20.

The West German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, today described his London talks with the American Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, the British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, and the French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman, as the "most decisive I have ever attended."

In a Press conference here today, Dr Adenauer said that after his discussion with M. Schuman on the Saar question he had reason to hope that the thorny problem could be solved and that the opinion of the Saar people would be consulted.

Despite the compromise reached regarding relations between the European Army and the Atlantic Pact, the Germans still sought admission to the Atlantic Pact, he continued.

On the question of the German armaments industry, Dr Adenauer stated that Western Germany had no desire to establish special industries such as the production of atomic arms but that apart from the arms manufacture controls applicable to all other countries in the Western community, West German industry and scientific research would be free.

Referring to the guarantees asked by France against any country withdrawing its forces from a European Army, he said that he would welcome such a safeguard on the condition that it was not directed solely against Germany and that it committed all members of the community.

He believed that restoration of German unity presupposed the unification and reinforcement of Europe, adding that a powerful European defence force would lead the Soviet Union to consider negotiations on German unity.

WAR CRIMINALS

On the question of the German financial contribution to European defence, Dr Adenauer said that he would review the question with his Economic and Finance Ministers and would send a memorandum to the Lisbon Atlantic Pact conference. A decision on the matter might be reached as early as this week.

West Germany would have three seats and America, Britain and France one each on the Joint Board which is to review sentences on West German war criminals.

If the Board unanimously decided that a war criminal should be released, or that his sentence should be reduced, this decision was binding on the Allied government affected.

If the Board decided only by a majority vote, the decision would be passed to the Allied government concerned as a recommendation.

REAL SETTLEMENT

Dr Adenauer said that M. Schuman had told him that France was prepared to negotiate directly with West Germany on the future of German war criminals held in France.

"I have the impression that a real settlement of the war criminals' question will result," Dr Adenauer stated.

There are about 1,000 war criminals in German prisons controlled by the three Occupying Powers.

Dr Adenauer said he told the three Western Foreign Ministers in London that West Germany still wanted to become a NATO member and still intended striving towards German unity by peaceful means.

Referring to the French objection to Germany entering NATO because Germany claimed other territories, Dr Adenauer said, "People seem to have forgotten that we want to obtain these territories by peaceful means."

Dealing with armament, Dr Adenauer said he told the Ministers that West Germany could not and did not want to build atom plants, bacteriological warfare plants, V-weapons and heavy warships.—France-Press and Reuter.

ISRAELI CABINET SURVIVES

Jerusalem, Feb. 20.

Israel's Parliament today approved the Government's new economic programme by 55 votes to 44 votes with four abstentions.

A motion of "no confidence" in the Government was defeated by 59 votes to 44.

It had been tabled by the four Opposition parties — General Zionists, United Workers' Party, the Freedom Movement, and the Communists.

The Government's plans aim at arresting inflation, encouraging investments and increasing export production. Investors will be allowed to import machinery and equipment without allocation of foreign currency.

Under the Government's new scheme three exchange rates will be established for the Israel Pound: \$2.80 to the Pound for essential food stuffs and commodities; \$1.40 to the Pound for less essential goods; and \$1 to the Pound for bulk goods and foreign investment.—Reuter.

Attlee Visit To America

Philadelphia, Feb. 20.

Mr. Clement Attlee, former British Labour Prime Minister, will be one of the speakers at the dinner of the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission and Fellowship House here on March 31.

The theme of the speeches will be "The Free World Speaks."

The sponsors announced that leaders from five continents would speak on "The hopes, aspirations and efforts of their peoples for freedom, security and human dignity."

Mr. Attlee, who will fly to America, was originally booked to speak on March 5, but postponed his visit because of the British Budget hearings.—(Associated Press.)

JAPANESE TREATY "Masterpiece Of Double-Talk"

US Senator's Criticism Of Proposed Security Pact

Washington, Feb. 20.

Senator William E. Jenner, Indiana Republican, today attacked the Japanese Peace Treaty in a Senate speech, describing it as "a masterpiece of double-talk" that could transform the United Nations into a "super-State."

The question of ratification of the pact was not before the Senate but it is expected to be called up in the near future. The Treaty and accompanying agreements were approved unanimously by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr Jenner said the proposed Security Pact between the United States and Japan was particularly dangerous.

"Under this Pact the President could, by one stroke of the pen, put an end to the American Army, the American Air Force and soon the American Navy," the Senator said.

This could be done, he continued, by transferring powers of the U.S. Armed Forces to the United Nations Commander as was done in Korea.

Mr Jenner hit at John Foster Dulles, former Republican Senator from New York who played a major role in working out the Japanese Treaty as an assistant to the Secretary of State, Dean Acheson.

"For over 18 months Mr Dulles has been going about secretly from one foreign capital to another, giving other nations his version of our foreign policy, and on return, giving us his version of their foreign policy," Mr Jenner said.

"As a result," Mr Jenner went on, "the Japanese settlement has been transferred from an open agreement between sovereign nations to a masterpiece of double-talk which ties Japan and the United States firmly into a United Nations super-State, a super-State whose board of directors includes the U.S.S.R."

RESERVATIONS URGED

Mr Jenner urged the Senate to add reservations to the Treaty to "remove all limitations on Japan's sovereignty, or ours, eliminate clauses carrying out the Yalta Agreement, and make an iron-clad statement that this President may not transfer American troops, bases, overseas construction or equipment to any other nation, group of nations, or international body without the consent of Congress."

He also urged reservations stating that China "in the Treaty means the daily constituted Republic of China, now on Formosa, but with legal sovereignty over all China, including Manchuria."

Mr Jenner praised General Douglas MacArthur, saying the latter's "simple proposals for the independence of Japan and the security of the Pacific have been transformed into a legal maze."

"Under the proposed pacts," Mr Jenner said, "what the President did for our forces in Korea, the Executive could do for the whole American establishment 'in and about'."

Professor's Warning On Eclipse

Capri, Feb. 20.

A Swedish professor, Dr Yngve Ohman, of Stockholm Observatory, warned here tonight that people wishing to observe the eclipse of the sun on Feb. 25 should wear the darkest possible glasses — otherwise their eyesight will suffer.

The eclipse will last from 9.21 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. local time, he said.

The professor and his colleagues of a Swedish group, which will study the eclipse from Capri Observatory, will be fenced off by strong police forces on their hill-top post next Monday morning.

They do not want to be disturbed by outsiders while watching the eclipse.

Another member of the group, Professor Rydbeck, also of Stockholm Observatory, arrived in Capri last night.—Reuter.

CANADIAN AID FOR ASIA

Ottawa, Feb. 20.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Louis St. Laurent, said today that the Canadian Parliament would be asked to vote a further \$25,000,000 for aid to South and South-East Asian countries, under the Colombo Plan.

Part of the money would be for economic assistance and part for technical co-operation. Parliament voted a similar amount last year.—Reuter.

'Austerity' In Argentina

Buenos Aires, Feb. 20. The sale of all kinds of meat has been limited by decree one day a week in all Argentine shops.

The order came 24 hours after President Peron's "austerity" speech on Monday, in which he warned that only by reducing less and working harder would Argentina overcome her economic difficulties.—Reuter.

GERMAN MISSION TO JAPAN

Bonn, Feb. 20.

Dr Heinrich Norie, head of the West German Foreign Ministry's Eastern Department, will leave Bonn for Tokyo to head Germany's first post-war representation in Japan, a Government official said here today.

The mission will aid in furthering German-Japanese trade and will have consular authority.

Its status will be similar to the overseas agencies the Japanese Government is establishing in various foreign countries.

As soon as Japan can open negotiations with Germany, the German mission in Tokyo is expected also to become an embassy.

A Japanese delegation is expected to arrive here next month to resume official relations with West Germany.

Dr Norie said here today that his superiors had instructed him not to grant interviews to the Press because of his "delicate" mission.—Reuter.

Marriage Without Tears

WOMEN'S IDEAS

London, Feb. 20.

Love may make a happy marriage, but it's the way the family purse is divided that keeps it so, the Married Women's Association reported today.

The Association, formed in 1938 to "end dictatorship by husbands," offered its views to a Royal Commission trying to find out why an increasing number of British marriages end in divorce.

The women made these suggestions for marriage without tears:

If the wife does the housework, she should be paid the same wage a servant or housekeeper would get.

The wife's allowances from her husband must be a reasonable amount of the family income and there should be no strings on how she spends it, except for "excessive addiction to gambling, smoking or drinking."

Married wives should contribute to family finances according to their means.

Debts should be disclosed before marriage and assets within three months after the ceremony.—Associated Press.

US To Expel Pakistanis

New York, Feb. 20.

A group of 47 Pakistanis who entered the United States illegally will be deported tomorrow.

A special plane has been chartered by the authorities to fly them to San Francisco where they will be put aboard the American liner President Wilson sailing for Hongkong.

From Hongkong, the deportees will be flown to Chittagong in eastern Pakistan. The deportees are part of a group of 150 foreigners, including Italians, Greeks, Portuguese, Egyptians and Turks, to be deported for illegal entry.—France-Press.

Concession To Tourists

New York, Feb. 20.

American visitors to Spain will be able to travel without visas from tomorrow.

This concession, was expected to speed about 100,000 United States tourists to Spain this year, the Spanish Tourist Bureau said here today.

Last year the number was 30,000.—Reuter.

Japanese Break A British Monopoly

Karachi, Feb. 20.

Japan has displaced the United Kingdom as Pakistan's chief supplier of cotton piecegoods and capital goods, according to trade figures published by the newspaper Dawn today.

Dawn said that the Japanese succeeded in breaking the British monopoly in this field of trade during a two-year drive to displace the United Kingdom, which had been the chief supplier of goods to Pakistan since 1947.

During this Pakistan imported capital goods totalling 100,000,000 rupees out of which Japan supplied textiles mill equipment, looms, diesel engines, electrical generators and other machinery valued at 60,000,000 rupees.

Japan also captured the Pakistan toyon market, supplying about 50 per cent.

Dawn said that this diversification of trade was a new pattern in Pakistan's commerce which is slowly but steadily moving away from Commonwealth countries.

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HOW that £140 carpet split a £20,000 team

by WILLIAM GRACE

THAT quarrel over a carpet—which wrecked the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership at the height of its success—becomes easier to understand.

The full story is told for the first time by Leslie Sullivan in *"The Gilbert and Sullivan Partnership"* (Cassell, 42s). Production of this lavishly and fascinating chronicle has been held up to include letters unknown for 70 years. They were found by Miss Bridget D'Oyly Carte, granddaughter of the man behind the old Savoy operas.

The intractable Gilbert was so angry about the quarrel that he wrote: "After the withdrawal of 'The Gondoliers', our united work will be heard in public no more."

That carpet nearly led to a ban on London revivals of the operas and an embargo on touring companies in England and abroad. "The Mikado" and the rest might never have been heard by modern audiences. Now why?

At the time of the dispute Gilbert and Sullivan were making more than £10,000 a year each. The fashionable Sullivan, plump and fleshy, smooth-tongued favourite of royalty, spent freely on entertainments, racehorses, the casino, travel.

Gilbert, tall, deep-voiced, built the Garrick Theatre out of his profits.

Richard D'Oyly Carte, their partner, built the Savoy and Palace Theatres, and the Savoy Hotel, out of his share.

Bad-tempered Gilbert started the row. He exploded when he heard that Carte had spent £4,500 on preparing "The Gondoliers" and that £300 of this was for new lobby and staircase carpets for the Savoy Theatre.

"You're making too much money out of my brains," he fumed in a volcanic interview. "Very well, then," snapped Carte. "You write no more for the Savoy."

Why Sullivan sided with Carte in the famous "carpet quarrel" has always been a mystery. The facts now emerge.

1. The carpet cost £140, not £500.

2. "The Gondoliers" was expensive because Gilbert ordered costumes and materials "blind" without getting estimates.

3. Carte, who had lost thousands on "The Yeomen of the Guard" in America, was legally entitled to charge his partners for upkeep of the theatre. That included carpets just as much as new electric bulbs (the Savoy was the first theatre in London lighted by electricity).

So, while "The Gondoliers" danced its gay cachucha to ever-delighted audiences during 1890 (in the second quarter the takings were £20,000), Gilbert issued a writ.

He wanted all the accounts to be reopened for the whole of the past 11 years' partnership, during which Carte had paid him £90,000.

Carte tried to bring two rising young novelists, J. M. Barrie and Conan Doyle, with Sullivan; he rejected their scripts. Gilbert found another composer (but not another Sullivan).

Eventually, the legal battle over the £7,200 L.D. has never been revived. "The Grand Duke," which they last, and feeblest, eclipsed after 123 performances.

When the pair met on the stage of the Savoy, taking a 21st anniversary curtain-call, they were not on speaking terms. They did not meet again.

Why did the partnership endure for so long? The two men could not get on.

Ald Gilbert despised Sullivan's pretensions as a serious composer, envied his high living.

No, the partnership endured because neither man could do without the other—financially. The fee Sullivan got for a big concert, 300 guineas, was as much as he lost in a night at Monte Carlo.

Money was the great peacemaker in the affairs of the team whose mild-and-bitter blended in the best English operas ever written.



Gilbert and Sullivan

DON IDDON'S DIARY

New York, Tuesday. ALL the past week the messages have been flowing into the British Embassy, the British information services, and the New York offices of the British newspapers.

There have been condolences, tributes, and expressions of faith and friendship, and good wishes for the future.

The United States mourns the death of the King. All Americans wish Queen Elizabeth II. a long and prosperous reign.

It has been deeply moving. Complete strangers have dropped into the office and mumbled: "Just thought you'd like to know how much everybody admired your King," and "You are fortunate to have such a wonderful young Queen."

If anyone doubted the closeness of the United Kingdom and the United States these last sad days must have dispelled the doubt.

Most newspapers day after day have devoted almost their entire issues to the sombre news, to biographies of the late King, the new Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the royal children, the illustrious story of the Crown.

GOOD FRIENDS

AMERICAN interest and curiosity have been insatiable. Because I had the honour to report the royal tour of Canada and travelled the royal route, seeing

boat, or bicycle or other represented symbol there.

A blind woman said she wanted to vote for camel, but would like to pat it first. The polling officer held up the camel ballot box for her to feel, whereupon she became very angry and loudly asked: "Where is the camel?" She could only be persuaded to vote by being told the animal had gone to graze.

One aged rural voter took an inordinately long time in the booth. An official went inside and found him with the ballot box bearing the pitcher symbol in his arms, trying to drink from the slit. He said he would only vote if the pitcher contained wine.

A martial young man intending to vote for Congress (yoked bulls), changed his mind when he saw the row of ballot boxes. He put his paper in the lion box as he "preferred lions to bullocks."

Sometimes the very criminality, the simplicity, of the symbols created sentimental attachments for voters. They confused their own possessions, they own way of life, with the choice of candidate.

One voter rode to the polling station in his own bullock cart and expressed his wish to vote for the candidates having bull and cart as their symbols.

Told he could only choose one, he declined to vote, saying he loved his bulls and his cart equally.

This inability to decide between candidates was a frequent occurrence.

A ballot paper was found placed between two boxes. The peasant who placed it there explained he wanted to divide his vote between the two.

There were many instances of voters tearing their ballot papers into two or more pieces and putting a bit in different boxes. An old woman slipped a bit of her vote into all 14

ballot boxes and exclaimed: "Blessed be all of you, my children."

A septuagenarian who tore his paper into 12 pieces for all the boxes smilingly explained he had promised his support to all: "I have kept my word and displeased none."

Promises to canvassers were regarded seriously. An elderly man gave his vote to one of five candidates, then instructed his four sons to vote for the rest: "If five people ask me for a favour I must oblige them equally. That is justice," the father told a canvasser afterwards.

Women went to the polls in surprisingly large numbers. In some places they outnumbered the men. One woman had herself carried to the polling station on a stretcher and died a few minutes after voting.

For many of them—indeed, for many men too—polling day was as good as a holiday. Thousands of women came out of purdah for the first time in their life to cast their votes.

The age-long, inferior position of women and their traditional withdrawal from life outside their family sometimes caused difficulties. Wives tended to refuse to disclose their husbands' names and would only do so when certain nobody could overhear.

One woman vigorously refused to have the indelible mark put on her left index finger. (This was done to prevent impersonation by those who had already voted). Taking up a strongly ethical line, she declared: "I refuse to admit I am dishonest."

The name of Jawaharlal Nehru seemed to appeal to women. A 53-year-old Christian woman wanted to vote for him as she regarded the Prime Minister as a reincarnation of Jesus Christ. Told that Nehru wasn't a candidate she declined to vote.

A cripple crawled 2½ miles to reach his polling station. Even wanted criminals contrived to vote. About 25 notorious outlaws managed to exercise their franchise in Jodhpur Division. One did so by disguising himself as a policeman.

A villager reported to the police that five miles from a polling booth he met a policeman on a camel who stated he was not a policeman but a dacoit who had come into town to vote.

America Watches and Marvels

—at the enduring strength and might of the Commonwealth

Queen Elizabeth and the Duke take part in scores of formal functions and dozens of informal meetings. I have been asked question after question.

Newsreel and television cameras have been brought into the office by crews from the major networks, and one has done one's best to tell a little of our heritage and tradition and give an accurate picture of the Queen and her husband.

The United States has often shown that it is a good and sincere friend of the British family of nations, but never more so than now.

SAD BUT PROUD

FOR a day or two there was a slightly jarring note in some of the dispatches from London and some of the editorials here.

There were references to the "once great" Empire and phrases such as "King George's reign marked the end of an era of British power."

But that was only at the beginning. Now the enduring might and strength of the Commonwealth and Empire are realised and marvelled over.

Today Americans are reading that Queen Elizabeth reigns over 600,000,000 people, is

Queen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa; the Sovereign of Colonies and Protectorates in Zanzibar and Pemba, of Malta and Hongkong, the Leeward and the Windward Islands; ruler of a fifth of the great globe itself.

The Americans realise that Britain is not just the United Kingdom, but that Britain is everywhere—on the Alberta plains and oilfields, in the African jungles, in the green pastures of New Zealand, in the great cities and the vast farms of Australia, in a thousand islands, and on all seven seas.

This is a sad time, but it is also a proud one.

People here do not pretend to understand the mystic qualities of the Throne and the Sovereign. Professor Max Lerner throws up his hands and says: "One often wonders how the British manage with little more than a few sticks and stones and a bit of glue and some swaggar to keep an Empire together."

Ah, professor, there is far more than "sticks and stones, a bit of glue, and some swaggar"—there are love and loyalty.

The American bond to the British Crown was severed by the revolutionary war, but it has not vanished. When the news was known here Americans said: "The King is dead." It never would have occurred to them to say: "The King of England is dead."

Even our harshest critics take on the role of courtiers. The apocryphally anti-British Colonel McCormick, who owns the Chicago Tribune is publish-

ing the life story of Queen Elizabeth under the title of "From Lillibet to Queen." So is the leading isolationist newspaper the New York Daily News.

There is a hardly a newspaper or magazine, whatever its views about Britain and the monarchial system, which is not printing tens of thousands of words as tribute, sometimes disguised as royal biography.

Also our good American copywriters are a little nonplussed by the promptness and even speed with which the Canadians proclaimed Queen Elizabeth Queen of Canada.

Americans have often said to me: "You know, the U.S. and Canada are one and the same country really. You can't tell the difference."

Can't you? I can. The Canadians can. The latest news from Canada is that the country, not fond of being termed a Dominion, may decide to call itself the Kingdom of Canada.

NO COMPULSION

WHO says so? The New York Times distinguished Ottawa correspondent, P. J. Philip. Mr. Philip writes: "Canada is a monarchy and not a republic. She is an independent country, voluntarily owing allegiance and loyalty to the Queen of the Realm."

This devotion to the Crown and this high personal regard for Queen Elizabeth II. were seen over and over again during the tour of Canada.

I tell you that the death of the King and the succession of the Queen have shown the world that the Commonwealth and Empire are stronger than ever. The United Kingdom is going through a temporary financial embarrassment, but Canada was never wealthier, nor more powerful, nor was Australia, nor South Africa. The sons have grown up and they stand beside their mother.

Against the background of the King's death and the coming to the Throne of Queen Elizabeth II, everything else seems petty and trivial.

Here there has been the mammoth rally in Madison Square Garden for General Dwight Eisenhower. Eighteen thousand people turned up and it was a dizzy and gaudy occasion.

I went along to see for myself, and got crushed in the crowd, which included girls dressed as cowboys and men dressed as Red Indians. Almost everybody carried a flag or banner or wore an emblem.

Clark Gable was there with Senator Cabot Lodge, chief organizer of the Eisenhower campaign, and handsome than Gable. Some in the crowd shouted: "Clark Gable for President." Gable grinned and the crowd roared.

AT A DISTANCE

THE general's voice was heard on recordings of his speeches made when he was president of Columbia University, saying: "Berlin, the young writer, did a very good job, and I suppose the rally could be considered successful."

Outside the Garden pickets paced with placards which said: "Less Army influence, not more—let Ike run a farm. I like Ike, but what does Ike like?"

The popular appeal of Eisenhower and the demand for him are great, but you cannot run for President at long distance. No man can.

There is also a drive here to nominate "General" MacArthur for the Presidency, but I don't think it will get very far.

POCKET CARTOON
by OSBERT LANCASTER

AMERICAN ROMANCE
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"Don't you realize, dear Lady Littlehampton, that if Mr. Butler had'st not been so stupid as to have had enough dollars to import foreign culture?"

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BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
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Telegrams: ELEKTRO BUDAPEST

With about half an electorate of 170,000,000 voting, 95 percent of whom are illiterate, inevitably there were very many amusing misunderstandings, farcical incidents and comic situations.

Officialdom went into the country's gigantic electoral adventure with serious qualms. They were daskly apprehensive of possible disorders.

There were a few ugly incidents, threats, intimidation, even a small number of unhappy fatalities, but against this giant background of the elections there were remarkably rare.

Instead there was the vastly wider experience of whole constituencies in rollicking laughter. Comedy far exceeded tragedy.

From all over the country, relieving the general tedium of straight, repetitive election reports, came accounts of the fun that was enjoyed at the polling booths.

The very arrangements made because of widespread illiteracy themselves provoked much humour. The use of symbols to designate candidates was perhaps the most fruitful source.

It was found that many rural people rarely if ever look at anything printed. Two-dimensional representation came hard to them, especially animals they had never seen in life.

In camel-less South India, for instance, the camel symbol became an elephant to some. Others saw it as a dog.

Many voters expected to find the real thing inside the polling booth. A number refused to vote because there was no ladder, or

boat, or bicycle or other represented symbol there.

A blind woman said she wanted to vote for camel, but would like to pat it first. The polling officer held up the camel ballot box for her to feel, whereupon she became very angry and loudly asked: "Where is the camel?" She could only be persuaded to vote by being told the animal had gone to graze.

One aged rural voter took an inordinately long time in the booth. An official went inside and found him with the ballot box bearing the pitcher symbol in his arms, trying to drink from the slit. He said he would only vote if the pitcher contained wine.

A martial young man intending to vote for Congress (yoked bulls), changed his mind when he saw the row of ballot boxes. He put his paper in the lion box as he "preferred lions to bullocks."

Sometimes the very criminality, the simplicity, of the symbols created sentimental attachments for voters. They confused their own possessions, they own way of life, with the choice of candidate.

One voter rode to the polling station in his own bullock cart and expressed his wish to vote for the candidates having bull and cart as their symbols.

Told he could only choose one, he declined to vote, saying he loved his bulls and his cart equally.

This inability to decide between candidates was a frequent occurrence.

A ballot paper was found placed between two boxes. The peasant who placed it there explained he wanted to divide his vote between the two.

There were many instances of voters tearing their ballot papers into two or more pieces and putting a bit in different boxes. An old woman slipped a bit of her vote into all 14

ballot boxes and exclaimed: "Blessed be all of you, my children."

A septuagenarian who tore his paper into 12 pieces for all the boxes smilingly explained he had promised his support to all: "I have kept my word and displeased none."

Promises to canvassers were regarded seriously. An elderly man gave his vote to one of five candidates, then instructed his four sons to vote for the rest: "If five people ask me for a favour I must oblige them equally. That is justice," the father told a canvasser afterwards.

Women went to the polls in surprisingly large numbers. In some places they outnumbered the men. One woman had herself carried to the polling station on a stretcher and died a few minutes after voting.

For many of them—indeed, for many men too—polling day was as good as a holiday. Thousands of women came out of purdah for the first time in their life to cast their votes.

The age-long, inferior position of women and their traditional withdrawal from life outside their family sometimes caused difficulties. Wives tended to refuse to disclose their husbands' names and would only do so when certain nobody could overhear.

One woman vigorously refused to have the indelible mark put on her left index finger. (This was done to prevent impersonation by those who had already voted). Taking up a strongly ethical line, she declared: "I refuse to admit I am dishonest."

The name of Jawaharlal Nehru seemed to appeal to women. A 53-year-old Christian woman wanted to vote for him as she regarded the Prime Minister as a reincarnation of Jesus Christ. Told that Nehru wasn't a candidate she declined to vote.

A cripple crawled 2½ miles to reach his polling station. Even wanted criminals contrived to vote. About 25 notorious outlaws managed to exercise their franchise in Jodhpur Division. One did so by disguising himself as a policeman.

A villager reported to the police that five miles from a polling booth he met a policeman on a camel who stated he was not a policeman but a dacoit who had come into town to vote.

Another woman voter for Nehru, learning he wasn't standing in her constituency, said to the presiding officer: "Then let me vote for you."

There were similar eccentricities among male voters. One man walked away with his ballot because the paper looked "too good to be wasted in a box."

The principle of "first come first served" said a peasant, decided for him. "I dropped my papers in the boxes placed first in the row. Whose are those?"

A Gond (Gonds are a Central Indian tribe) insisted that the polling officer should tell him whom to vote for. He repeatedly rebuked that the official couldn't tell him and that he would have to make his own choice, he finally went away shouting angrily: "If you don't know, how do you expect poor folk like us to know?"

Not only voters went into the ballot boxes. In one was found a petition to Nehru for food and clothing.

These humorous exceptions to the normal, somewhat drab, procedure of voting, were however, extremely few compared to the total votes cast. The general impression was that the Indians showed a remarkable degree of political maturity.

They knew what they were doing and why. They knew what they looked for in choosing their candidate. There were innumerable examples of people going to great trouble in order to exercise their right.

A cripple crawled 2½ miles to reach his polling station. Even wanted criminals contrived to vote. About 25 notorious outlaws managed to exercise their franchise in Jodhpur Division. One did so by disguising himself as a policeman.

A villager reported to the police that five miles from a polling booth he met a policeman on a camel who stated he was not a policeman but a dacoit who had come into town to vote.

THE general's voice was heard on recordings of his speeches made when he was president of Columbia University, saying: "Berlin, the young writer, did a very good job, and I suppose the rally could be considered successful."

Outside the Garden pickets paced with placards which said: "Less Army influence, not more—let Ike run a farm. I like Ike, but what does Ike like?"

The popular appeal of Eisenhower and the demand for him are great, but you cannot run for President at long distance. No man can.

There is also a drive here to nominate "General" MacArthur for the Presidency, but I don't think it will get very far.



CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO		
"SZECHUEN"	Kobe, Osaka & Moji	10 a.m. 22nd Feb.
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"FUNGING"	Bangkok	5 p.m. 25th Feb.
"HUNAN"	Tientsin	10 a.m. 26th Feb.
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	5 p.m. 27th Feb.
"SOOCHOW"	Yokohama, Kobe & Nagoya	5 p.m. 1st Mar.
"FENGING"	Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	10 a.m. 4th Mar.
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	5 p.m. 5th Mar.

Sails from Custodian Wharf

ARRIVALS FROM		
"HUNAN"	Tientsin	21st Feb.
"POYANG"	Keelung	22nd Feb.
"KWEIYANG"	Singapore	23rd Feb.
"FUNGING"	Kobe	23rd Feb.
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	7 a.m. 25th Feb.
"SOOCHOW"	Bangkok	25th Feb.

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SAILINGS TO		
"CHANGSHA"	Kobe, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Shimonoseki	20th Feb.
"TAIPING"	Japan	7th Mar.
"TAIYUAN"	Sydney	11th Mar.
"TAIPING"	Sydney & Melbourne	20th Mar.

ARRIVALS FROM		
"TAIPING"	Australia & Manila	3rd Mar.
"TAIYUAN"	Moji	8th Mar.
"TAIPING"	Japan	23rd Mar.

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"ANTIOCHUS"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam & Glasgow	4 p.m. 21st Feb.
"CYCLOPS"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam & Glasgow	27th Feb.
"PELEUS"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam & Glasgow	6th Mar.
"CLYTONEUS"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam & Glasgow	22nd Mar.
"ANCHISES"	Dublin & Liverpool	26th Mar.

Sails	Arrives
S. "AUTOLYCUS"	25th Feb.
G. "ANCHISES"	2nd Mar.
S. "CLYTONEUS"	11th Mar.
G. "PATROCLUS"	17th Mar.
S. "ASTYANAX"	24th Mar.
G. "AENEAS"	31st Mar.
S. "ASCANIUS"	7th Apr.
G. "PERSEUS"	14th Apr.
S. "AGAPENOR"	21st Apr.

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S. Loading Swansea before Liverpool.
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"DONA NATI" 16th Mar.

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HK/Manila/Cebu (DC-3)	10:00 a.m. Tues. 4:15 p.m. Wed.	12:00 Noon Thurs. 4:15 p.m. Wed.
HK/Singapore/Batavia (DC-3)	6:30 a.m. Tues. Fri. 3:45 p.m. Wed. Sat.	10:00 a.m. Tues. Fri. 11:00 a.m. Wed. Sat.

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"BENAVON"	U.K. via Manila	In Port
"BENVENUE"	U.K. via Singapore	25th Feb.
"BENATTOW"	U.K. via Singapore	18th Mar.
"BENGLUCH"	U.K. via Singapore	31st Mar.
"BENGLUCHIAN"	U.K. via Singapore	18th Apr.
"BENMACDHUI"	U.K. via Singapore	24th Apr.

SAILINGS

SHIP'S	TO	DATE
"BENAVON"	Kobe, Yokohama & Kobe	24th Feb.
"BENVENUE"	Direct to Singapore, thence Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin & Hull	25th Feb.
"BENATTOW"	Avonmouth, London & Hamburg	21st Mar.
"BENAVON"	Direct to Singapore, thence Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin & Hull	29th Mar.
"BENGLUCH"	Kobe, Yokohama & Kobe	5th Apr.
"BENGLUCHIAN"	Avonmouth, Liverpool, Glasgow & Antwerp	22nd Apr.
"BENGLUCHIAN"	Direct to Singapore, thence London & Hull	24th Apr.
"BENMACDHUI"	Kobe, Yokohama & Kobe	28th Apr.

/ Calls Manila, Cebu, Tawau, Sandakan, Jesselton & Labuan.

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York Building

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THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE
1932 Annual Return Forms are on
sale at "S. C. M. Post."

NOTICE

H. K. S. P. C.

The Annual General Meet-
ing of the Hong Kong Society
for the Protection of Children
will now take place on
Thursday, February 28, 1952
at 5.30 p.m. at the British
Council Reading Room, 1st
Floor, Gloucester Building.

All members are earnestly
requested to be present, and
an invitation is cordially
extended to members of the
public interested in Child
Welfare.

Conscription
Bill Voted

Washington, Feb. 20.
The Senate Armed
Forces Committee tonight
unanimously voted a bill
authorizing establishment
of individual military train-
ing for all men 18 years of
age.
The bill will be sent to
the Senate shortly. —
France-Press.

Leopold's Paris Trip

Brussels, Feb. 20.
Ex-King Leopold of the
Belgians and Princess de Reby,
his second wife, plan to visit
Paris for a short stay. — Reuter.

NOTICE

A. S. WATSON & COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that the 63rd Ordinary Yearly
Meeting of the Company (since registration) will be held
at the Hong Kong Hotel, Hong Kong, on Friday the 22nd
February, 1952, at 11.15 a.m., for the purpose of receiving
the Report of the Directors together with the Statement of
Accounts for the period ended 31st October, 1951, and to
elect Directors and appoint auditors.

At 11.30 a.m. of the same day at the same place, an
Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held
for the purpose of considering two resolutions fully set out
in the Notices convening this Meeting which have been sent
to individual shareholders. The first resolution provides
for the termination of the Agreement between the
Company and Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son and for
the compensation of Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son Ltd.,
the successors in business of the said Messrs. John
D. Humphreys & Son. The resolution also provides for
the offer to members of 50,000 shares in the Company at
\$20.00 per share in order to raise part of the compensation
payable to the said General Managers in consequence of the
termination of the said Agreement. In the event of this
resolution being carried, a further resolution will be
proposed as a special resolution. This provides for con-
sequential amendments to the Articles of Association of the
Company arising from the termination of the Agreement
with the General Managers and for the transfer of the powers
formerly exercised by the General Managers to the Board
of Directors of the Company. Any shareholder who has not
received the Notice setting out these resolutions in full and
the accompanying Statement from the Chairman of the
Board of Directors may obtain copies on application to the
Secretary of the Company.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from
Monday, 11th February, 1952, to Friday, 22nd February,
1952, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,

WM. PATERSON.

Secretary.

Hong Kong, 1st February, 1952.

Jan Masaryk
Murdered,
Says Report

Paris, Feb. 20.
A document has just reached
Czech refugees in Paris which is
receiving close attention from
intelligence officers.

It is said to have been smug-
gled out of Prague and purports
to be the testimony of Dr. Teply,
a distinguished Prague patholo-
gist, who was called to the Czech
Foreign Office at 6 o'clock on
the morning of March 10, 1948,
after Jan Masaryk had sup-
posedly committed suicide by
jumping out of a window.

In this document Dr. Teply
describes how he found
Masaryk's body covered with
marks of blows.
There was a wound on the
back of the neck. The hands
indicated a violent fight.
The room from which he had
fallen was in great disorder,
with tables overturned and
many things broken.

Dr. Teply himself died a few
weeks ago—say in mysteri-
ous circumstances.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

Consignees per
HARDER-VILHEIMSEN LINE
S.S. "TAMERIS"

are hereby notified that their cargo
is being declared into the Hong-
kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown
Co's godown where it will be at
the disposal of the Company's sur-
veyors, Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at
10 a.m. on the 23rd February, 1952.

To comply with the General Bonded
Warehouse Regulations, consignees
must have a Revenue Officer in
attendance when damaged dutiable
goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after
the goods have left the steamer's
godown, and all goods remaining
undelivered after the 24th February,
1952, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must
be presented to the Underwriter on
or before the 2nd March 1952, or
they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th February, 1952.



PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves London	Arrives Hongkong
"CORFU"	7th February	10th March
"CANTON"	6th March	7th April
"CANTHAGE"	2nd April	4th May

Homewards — Leaves Hongkong Due London
"CHUSAN" 23rd February 22nd March
"CORFU" 14th March 14th April
"CANTON" 11th April 12th May
"CANTHAGE" 9th May 9th June

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bom-
bay, Aden & London.

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Due Hongkong	From
"SURAT"	3rd April	London & Continent
Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	For
"SOCOTRA"	20th March	London & Continent

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Port Swettenham,
Penang, Colombo, Aden, Genoa, Marseilles, London
Hamburg, Antwerp & Rotterdam, with liberty to call
at Bombay if inducement offers.

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Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited passenger
accommodation.

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"SANGOLA"	due 27th Feb.	from Japan
	sails 1st March	for Singapore, Penang, Bangkok & Ceylon
"WARLA"	due 24th Feb.	from Japan
	sails 20th Feb.	for Chittagong via Singapore

(These vessels have refrigerated cargo space)

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"OKILA"	In Port	from Japan
	sails 21st Feb.	for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay & Karachi
"ORNA"	due 22nd Feb.	from Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Singapore
	sails 24th Feb.	for Japan
"OZARDA"	due 20th Feb.	from P. Gulf, Karachi, Bombay, Colombo & Singapore
	sails 1st March	for Japan

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

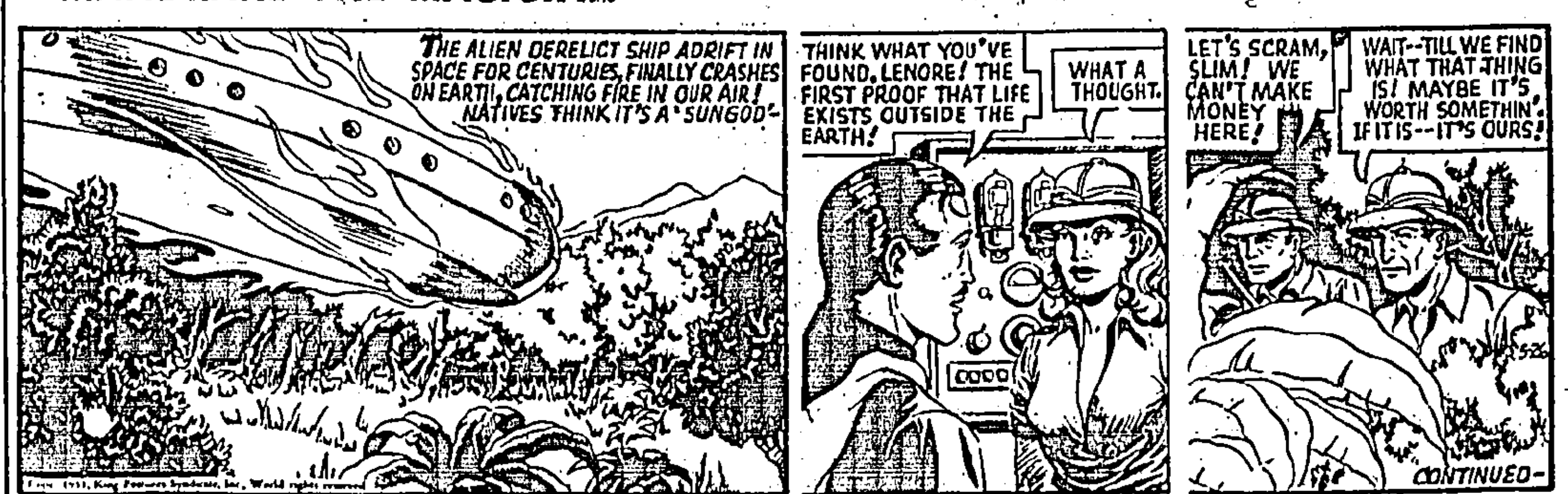
"NELLORE" sails 20th Feb. for Port Moresby, Sydney & Melbourne

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on
or off the route & the route & sailing are subject
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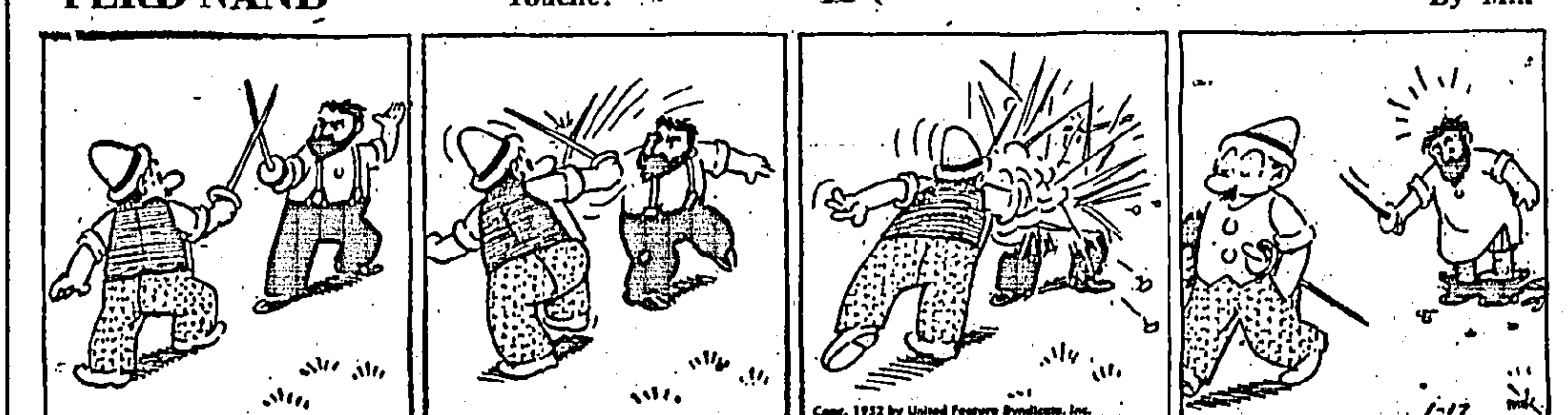
By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FERD'NAND

Touche!

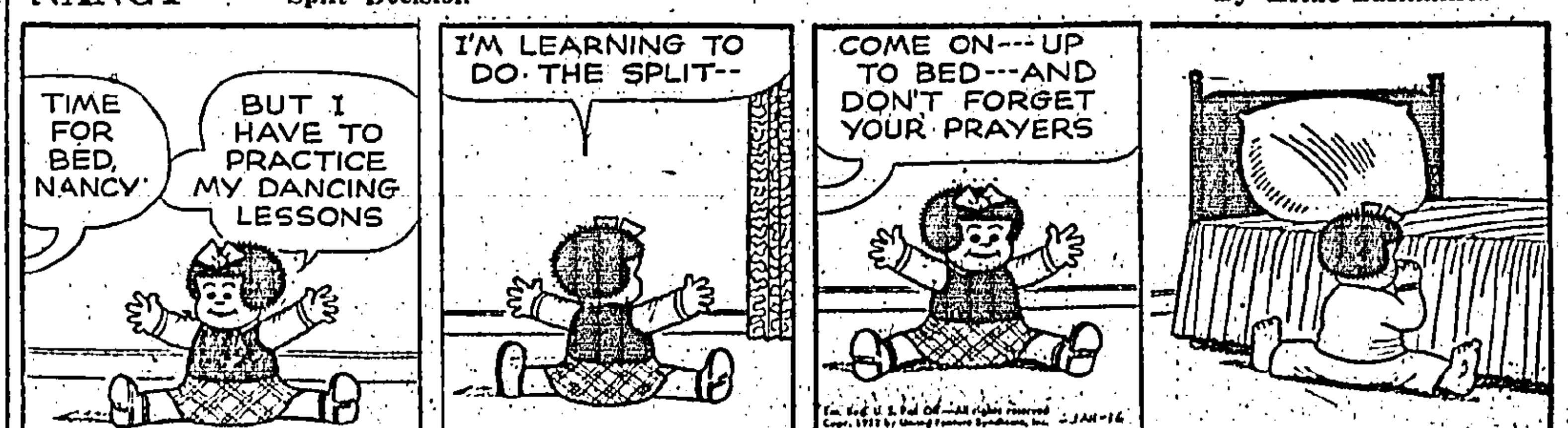
By Milk



NANCY

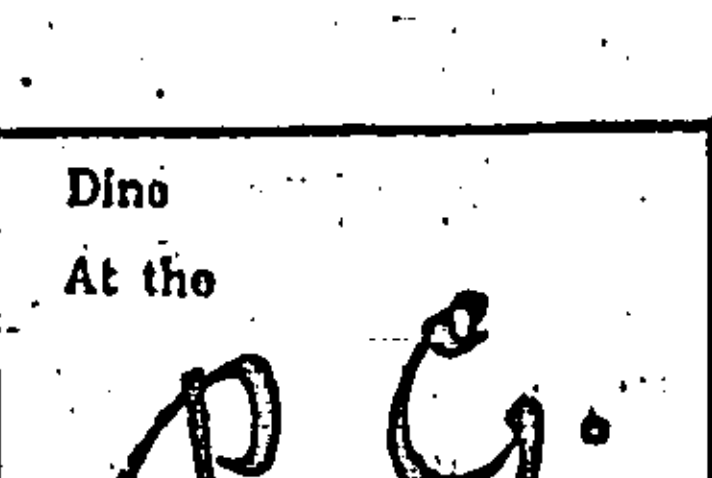
Split Decision

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



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Chancellor
Reassures
Schools

London, Feb. 20.

Mr R. A. Butler said that he
had to "look at Education with
a pair of scissors rather than a
paint brush."

But in his lecture to 600
students and staff members of
London University the Chan-
cellor of the Exchequer repeated
his assurances about school
age.

The Government had no
intention of raising the school
entry age - or lowering the
leaving age, or discharging or
ceasing to recruit teachers.

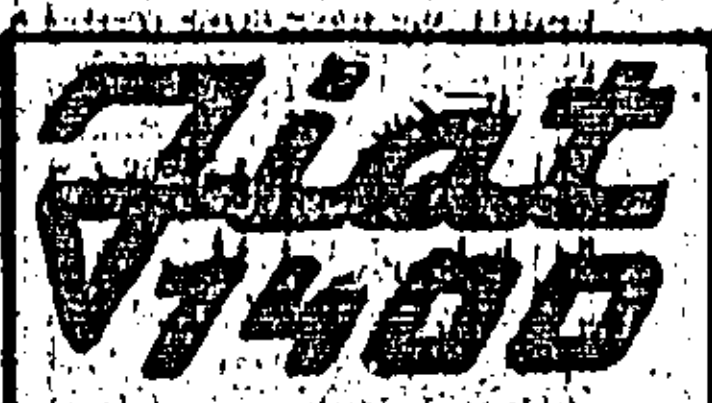
"I am surprised," he said,
"that it should have been
thought that I or any of my
colleagues would not be pro-
foundly averse from so drastic
a move."

"I should like my friends who
care so deeply for education to
feel that it should now be
immune from any of the worst
shocks which economy may
make essential. We in the
Government will certainly set
our faces against inflicting any
unnecessary damage at this
time."

Mr Butler, who was Minister
of Education in 1941-45, talked
of his 1944 Education Act.

"The modern school has de-
veloped as we thought, it
would . . .," Mr Butler said.
"It is the only blessed school in
Britain where the teachers and
pupils do not work in the shade
of the examination system."

"I hope it will be possible
further to ease the financial
burden which have arisen
since the 1944 Act for the
voluntary schools. Churches con-
tinue to have an honourable
role and voluntary schools
symbolise the determination of
our people to keep a free
diversity in our way of life."



Modern, lively, apted.

silent six-cylinder plus

economical operation.

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MESSAGERIES MARITIMES



Vessel	Leaving	Outward For
"ZELIDJA"	Feb. 22	Cebu, Yokohama
"THEODORITON"	Apr. 2	Hatphong
Homeward For		
"FELIX ROUSSEL"	Mar. 6	Mar. 7
"MORTAIN"	Mar. 17	N. Africa & Europe
"ZELIDJA"	Apr. 6	N. Africa & Europe

passengers & freight.
+ freight for Saigon, Port Said, Tunis, Marseilles, Algiers, Oran, Tangier, Casablanca, Havre, Dunkirk, Antwerp & Rotterdam.

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M.S. "TREN MAERSK"	Mar. 16
M.S. "PETER MAERSK"	Apr. 2

ARRIVALS FROM U.S.A.

M.S. "PETER MAERSK"	Feb. 28
M.S. "NICOLINE MAERSK"	Mar. 17
M.S. "SALLY MAERSK"	Mar. 25

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US-Indonesian Tin

Talks Expected To Be Resumed

Washington, Feb. 20.

Authoritative sources said today that the Indonesian Government mission is prepared to resume negotiations with the United States for sale of tin after receipt from Djakarta of a new pricing formula. The negotiations are expected to resume during the latter part of this week.

While the exact formula cannot be disclosed, it can be said that the Indonesian offer is based on a rough estimate of 20,000 tons of Indonesian tin being made available each year to the United States during the next three years.

This amount is considered adequate by American officials to keep up stockpile requirements but they had no opportunity to talk over the Indonesian price formula which is on a sliding scale.

The Indonesians have consistently asked a price of \$1.25 per pound, for tin in negoti-

tions between the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the sole U.S. buyer of this commodity, and the Indonesian mission, headed by the Foreign Trade Minister, Mr. Darmawan Mangunkusomo.

However, they were faced with the American offer to pay only \$1.18 per pound for 20,000 tons of tin to be bought from Britain.

DJAKARTA FORMULA

The United States is obliged under the agreement with Britain to raise this price if more is paid to any other foreign tin producer.

For that reason, the Indonesian formula has been worked out in such a way that it would cost the United States a little more during the period of the British contract, which is for one year, but would make up the difference later. American officials are expected to meet later this week to discuss the latest proposals from Djakarta. —United Press.

Foreign Exchanges In NY

New York, Feb. 20.	US\$
Canada	2.75-3.10
England	2.33 bid-2.33 asked
France	2.25-2.25 1/2
Italy	2.25-2.25 1/2
Australia	2.25-2.25 1/2
New Zealand	2.25-2.25 1/2
South Africa	2.25-2.25 1/2
Belgium	2.25-2.25 1/2
Denmark	2.25-2.25 1/2
Sweden	2.25-2.25 1/2
Switzerland	2.25-2.25 1/2
Spain	2.25-2.25 1/2
Portugal	2.25-2.25 1/2
Japan	2.25-2.25 1/2
Philippines	2.25-2.25 1/2
India	2.25-2.25 1/2
Sri Lanka	2.25-2.25 1/2
Malaya	2.25-2.25 1/2
Singapore	2.25-2.25 1/2
Batavia	2.25-2.25 1/2
Manila	2.25-2.25 1/2
Cebu	2.25-2.25 1/2
Yokohama	2.25-2.25 1/2
Osaka	2.25-2.25 1/2
Tokyo	2.25-2.25 1/2
Hong Kong	2.25-2.25 1/2
Shanghai	2.25-2.25 1/2
Beiping	2.25-2.25 1/2
Tientsin	2.25-2.25 1/2
Harbin	2.25-2.25 1/2
Manchuria	2.25-2.25 1/2
North China	2.25-2.25 1/2
South China	2.25-2.25 1/2
East Indies	2.25-2.25 1/2
West Indies	2.25-2.25 1/2
Caribbean	2.25-2.25 1/2
South America	2.25-2.25 1/2
Central America	2.25-2.25 1/2
North America	2.25-2.25 1/2
Europe	2.25-2.25 1/2
Asia	2.25-2.25 1/2
Africa	2.25-2.25 1/2
Oceania	2.25-2.25 1/2
Antarctica	2.25-2.25 1/2

LONDON MARKET

The tin market was quiet, but steadier this morning. Turnover was 35 tons, nothing for cash. Prices closed at the end of the official morning session as follows:

Spot tin, buyers 98 1/2
Business done at 98 1/2
Three-month tin, buyers 99 1/2
Business done at 99 1/2
Settlement 99 1/2
—United Press.

New York Sugar

Futures

New York, Feb. 20.	
Domestic sugar futures No. 6	
closed unchanged to 3 lower	
March	6.17 nominal
May	6.27 bid
July	6.30 bid
September	6.50-60
November	6.65 bid
World sugar futures No. 6	
closed unchanged to 4 lower	
March	4.38 nominal
May	4.52
July	4.59 bid
September	4.60
November	4.80 asked
Raw sugar spot 5.00 nominal	



WITHDRAWAL OF CHINESE TROOPS FROM NW BURMA

Gen. Li Mi Reported To Be In Formosa Seeking Aid

Bangkok, Feb. 20.

The leader of 10,000 Chinese Nationalist troops in northeast Burma — potential trigger for a new war in Asia — was reported to be in Formosa on Wednesday to get help for a withdrawal.

A highly placed foreign official said General Li Mi went to Formosa about a week ago and it was a "fair assumption" he was discussing the problem of pulling his soldiers out of Burma.

Build More Airfields Urges Eisenhower

Lisbon, Feb. 20.

General Dwight Eisenhower today urged the North Atlantic Treaty powers to take immediate steps to build a network of airfields in Western Europe to protect his ground forces.

Council members carried on discussions behind closed doors following the formal opening, at which the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, urged them to "finish the job" of building solid Western defences against the threat of Soviet aggression.

The Council prepared to give speedy approval to plans for a 1,400,000-man European Army, but the message from General Eisenhower made it plain that alone would not be enough. General Eisenhower presented a need for airfields in the strongest terms.

As the Council began its plenary session, Mr. W. Averell Harriman of the United States appeared in a statement that no time be wasted in preparing European defence. He said his temporary Council Committee had been studying ways and means by which nations can pay their defence bills and keep a healthy economy and it would present recommendations on the subject.

REALISTIC METHOD
"We seek a realistic method of achieving maximum combat-ready forces in 1952 on a balanced collective basis," he said. "At the same time, we provide orderly building of additional forces towards a goal of adequate defensive strength. Concurrently, we seek to strengthen the social and economic structure."

"These objectives require the most efficient and economic use of available resources." Greece and Turkey, newly admitted to NATO, were reported officially for the first time. The Turkish Foreign Minister replied to the welcome given his country.

"Our appreciation of the spirit of comprehension shown by signatory members of the North Atlantic Treaty in agreeing to its inclusion in NATO was all the greater because Turkey is impatient to assume as soon as possible the full responsibilities of mutual aid for the safeguarding of civilisation and of collective defence, all of which must be intensified in view of the perils which threaten us at the present time." —United Press.

NO LICENCE FOR POISON

Chan Hung-tung, 24, proprietor of the Yick Man Medicine Company, 104, Leichok Road, was fined \$500 by Mr. Oswald Cheung at Kowloon this morning for possession of poison without a licence.

Insp. H. B. Dewar said defendant's premises were raided yesterday and several bottles containing benzodrine tablets, glycerophosphate, sulfadiazine and penicillin were found.

The poison, valued at approximately \$200 was ordered to be confiscated to the Medical Department.

ON SHIP WITHOUT PERMISSION

Found to be on board the mv Seachuen at buoy B5 yesterday afternoon without permission, Lau Chi-shun, 38, broker, Cheung Hon, 28, shop foh, and Wong Tak-shing, 23, storekeeper, were each fined \$25 by Mr. W. Sprague at the Marine Court this morning.

Sub-inspector Kong Si-lun said that when arrested the first defendant declared he was about to buy something, while the others said they were looking for friends.

Mysterious Balls Of Fire Spotted

Long Beach, Calif., Feb. 20.

Mysterious balls of fire were reported on Wednesday to have been seen in the sky near San Francisco and more than 400 miles south, near Riverside.

Early Wednesday morning, a Richmond newspaper employee and a group of carrier boys reported seeing three greenish balls of fire about dusk on Tuesday.

Mrs. Mae Lee, of Long Beach said on Wednesday she and two other persons saw a fiery red ball in the heavens while they were driving between Riverside and Corona late on Tuesday afternoon.

"We parked and watched it for about 15 minutes," she told a newspaperman. "It seemed to drop straight from far in the heavens. Finally it began to zig-zag, then went up into the sky again."

"It wasn't the exhaust from a jet plane, or the sun reflected on the wing of a plane. It wasn't anything from this earth. It was much too high for that. It was the colour of the sun, only smaller."

Mrs. Lee said it disappeared into the heavens, leaving a fiery trail which gradually faded away.

The sky was clear at the time. The greenish balls of fire over Richmond were seen during a heavy rainstorm. —Associated Press.

Had Dangerous Goods

A fine of \$50 was imposed on Chan Yau, 31, master of cargo junk 774V, by Mr. W. Sprague at the Marine Court this morning for carrying dangerous goods.

Defendant was arrested yesterday by Mr. L. E. Smyke, Assistant Marine Officer, off Yuen On Wharf where Chan was loading 100 cases of matches from the ss Kwong Tung.

Chan possessed a letter from the authorities stating that he could discharge the matches from the Kwong Tung to the ss E-Sang provided the lighter used was approved for the purpose by the Director of Marine, Chan, who said he could not read English, stated that he thought the letter was sufficient permission for him to carry the matches.

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